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law of Maryland, form of stock certificates, of assignment and power of transfer, and a specimen page of transfer book is added. The work is divided into seven parts, dealing respectively with the nature of corporations, how and when corporate life begins, what a corporation may do, how the corporate powers are exercised, the consequences of unauthorized acts, capital stock, and, lastly, the corporation and the state.

The volume will be of most value to the student who intends to practise in Maryland, but it also presents the principles of the law in a way which will also meet the needs of the great majority of students.

*B. O. F.*

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PROBATE REPORTS ANNOTATED: Containing Recent Cases of General Value Decided in the Courts of the Several States on Points of Probate Law. With Notes and References. By GEORGE A. CLEMENT, of the New York Bar, Author of "Clement's Digest of Fire Insurance Decisions," and "A Treatise on Fire Insurance as a Valid Contract." Volume VIII, with index to Volumes I to VIII, inclusive. Pp. li+838. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Company. 1904.

The present series, of which this is the eighth volume, supersedes eight volumes of "American Probate Reports" (1881 to 1896), and was started in 1897. The volumes are produced about a year apart, and contain each one hundred or more recent cases bearing on the passing of property because of the death of the former owner.

As may well be appreciated, the subject is of immense practical importance, as each incoming generation succeeds to the entire real and personal property of its predecessors, four-fifths of which, it is said, passes through the Probate Courts.

Ordinarily no higher mark of confidence could be given a lawyer than the commission of preparing in legal form the instrument which is to determine the disposition of a man's entire estate after he shall have passed away from the scenes of its accumulation. The privileges of a man to direct what shall be done with his wealth after he has gone is now almost universally recognized, in a more or less restricted form, and is one of the most cherished rights of an ordinary man. Unhappily, too often is the intent of the testator defeated because of an ill-consideration of the legal requisites or inapt or obscure language. As the effects of a man's decease on his property are so complex and varied, and present one of the most common heads of judicial inquiry, every lawyer should be as familiar as possible with the law relating thereto.

Nothing can take the place of constant reference to recent

decisions of the courts on any subject of the law, but the mass of decisions is so great that a good index is essential to open up intelligible paths. This is the purpose of "Probate Reports Annotated." The recent and important decisions of all the states are carefully examined and reported *while they are fresh from the bench*. A comprehensive index lays before each inquirer the particular subject he is seeking, with references to each of the eight volumes now issued. The cases themselves are reported in no particular rotation—in fact, the plan is similar to an ordinary volume of state reports, with these important exceptions: *First*, the index incorporates all topics touched upon in any of the preceding volumes, thus constantly enlarging a collection of decisions bearing on all the more complex cases coming before a Court of Probate jurisdiction; *second*, there are frequent NOTES in each volume, inserted where a conflicts centres on a particular point of law, or where a matter of unusual interest or importance is presented, or where a compendium of kindred topics is desirable; *third*, the reports, as stated, are taken, not from one state, but from *all* the states; and this is a provision that seems to be of the utmost ultimate consequence in the development of the law and of the greatest present value where a point is left unsettled in the lawyer's particular state.

As Pope has it,

"'Tis with our judgments as our watches, none  
Go just alike, yet each believes his own,"

which may be supplemented by Suckling's version,

"But where an authentic watch is shown,  
Each man winds up and rectifies his own,  
So, in our very judgments . . ."

It is believed that the more light that can be shed on any controversy, the more nearly just will be its determination; and the more a comparison may be had of the learned and respectable views entertained by the several courts of our country respectively, the more will the law tend to uniformity.

The work thus outlined is carried on with ability by the present editor, Mr. Clement, of the New York Bar. It is of great practical moment, being a valuable symposium of legal opinion on one of our most common sources of litigation.

E. S. R.